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## The Hon Warren Truss MP

Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development  
Leader of The Nationals  
Member for Wide Bay

04 FEB 2016

*PDR ID: MC15-005893*

Dr Dennis Jensen MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Jensen

*Dennis*

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2015 regarding the petition submitted by Ms Cara Horner of the Aurora Community Association, to the Standing Committee on Petitions, about the construction of a new interchange connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government has committed over \$4.8 billion towards land transport infrastructure in Victoria from 2013-14 to 2018-19 and stands ready to meet its \$3 billion commitment to the East West Link should a future government of Victoria agree to construct this important project.

The Australian Government is taking a long term, strategic approach to infrastructure planning. Part of this approach includes developing a pipeline of infrastructure projects to inform future investment decisions. In May 2015, Infrastructure Australia (IA) released the Australian Infrastructure Audit which highlighted the need to improve transport infrastructure in Melbourne. The Audit will help inform IA's 15-year Infrastructure Plan which will set out our national infrastructure priorities over the longer term.

The Australian and Victorian governments are working closely to agree on future road and rail infrastructure priorities that are in the best interests of the Australian and Victorian economies.

While the construction of a new interchange connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway has been identified as a priority by the Victorian Government, a detailed business case has not been provided. A decision on funding the project will need to be made in the context of other infrastructure priorities and future budgets.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**WARREN TRUSS**